

House File 423 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 423

BY SCHULTE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to quality standards for children in a foster
2 care, preadoption or adoption, or subsidized guardianship
3 placement.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 234.5 Quality standards for
2 children in placement — legislative intent.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, "*child in placement*"
4 means a child in a foster care, preadoption or adoption, or
5 subsidized guardianship placement in accordance with a court
6 order or agreement with the department of human services.

7 2. It is the intent of the general assembly that the
8 department of human services and others providing care or
9 other support for a child in placement will strive to attain
10 the quality standards enumerated in this subsection. The
11 quality standards for each child in placement include all of
12 the following:

13 a. Being treated with respect.

14 b. Being safe and well cared for.

15 c. Being accepted for who they are.

16 d. Maintaining and developing lifelong family connections.

17 e. Being fully informed about changes that affect them and
18 why the changes are being made.

19 f. Having an opportunity to attend hearings regarding their
20 care.

21 g. Receiving adequate health and mental health care.

22 h. Having access to a good, stable education.

23 i. Attaining the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to
24 become an independent adult.

25 j. Achieving permanency.

26 k. Receiving assistance if these quality standards are not
27 being attained.

28 3. The department of human services shall work with
29 those persons providing care and other support to children
30 in placement to develop written materials and other forms of
31 communication to build awareness among providers and children
32 in placement concerning the quality standards enumerated in
33 this section.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill relates to quality standards for a "child in

1 placement", which is defined by the bill in new Code section
2 234.5 to mean a child in a foster care, preadoption or
3 adoption, or subsidized guardianship placement in accordance
4 with a court order or agreement with the department of human
5 services.

6 The bill states legislative intent that the department
7 of human services and others providing care or other support
8 for a child in placement will strive to attain a list of
9 quality standards for each child during placement. The list
10 includes being treated with respect, receiving adequate health
11 and mental health care, achieving permanency, and receiving
12 assistance if the quality standards are not being attained.

13 The department is required to work with other persons to
14 develop written materials and other forms of communication
15 to build awareness among providers and children in placement
16 concerning the quality standards.